

Appl. No. 09/911,916
Amdt. dated January 10, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 8, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated October 8, 2004, in which the Examiner objected to the Specification and rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by an article authored by Casati et al., "eFlow: a Platform for Developing and Managing Composite e-Services." With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 9, 14, and 23 and cancel claims 13 and 32.

Applicants amend the Specification to fill in the application serial number of the referenced application.

The Casati article describes a tool that provides a service developer a "mechanism for defining the composite service starting from basic services." Page 341, Abstract. "In order to support these requirements, eFlow includes several features that enable the dynamic creations of service process definitions... ." Page 344, section 4. Thus, the Casati article pertains only to a tool that permits a user to create a process definition. The use of the process definition is beyond the scope of the Casati article.

Amended claim 1 requires receiving a process definition and "transforming the process definition into a composite process specification in a format supported by an electronic services platform, said composite process specification having a plurality of electronic services." The Casati article only describes a tool by which a user can specify a composite process definition and does not teach or even suggest transforming the process definition into a composite process specification that is to be executed by an electronic service or registering the composite process specification. At least for this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent on claim 1 are allowable over the Casati article.

Claim 1 also requires "registering the composite process specification with the electronic services platform." The Examiner identified page 347, left column, first paragraph as disclosing the unamended version of this limitation. That paragraph says absolutely nothing about registering anything, much less registering a composite process specification with an electronic services platform.

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At least for this additional reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent on claim 1 are allowable over the Casati article.

Applicants amend claims 2 and 9 to maintain consistency with the language of claim 1 and not for reasons of patentability or to narrow the scope of the claim.

Amended claim 14 requires "computer code for transforming the process definition into a composite process specification that is to be executed by at least one electronic services platform, said composite process specification having a plurality of electronic services" and "computer code for registering the composite process specification with said at least one electronic services platform." The Casati article does not teach or even suggest transforming the process definition into a composite process specification that is to be executed by an electronic service or registering the composite process specification. For either or both of these reasons, claim 14 and all claims dependent on claim 14 are allowable over the Casati article.

As amended, claim 23 requires "means for structuring said first electronic service to be compatible with a given said electronic services platform." The Casati article does not teach or even suggest structuring a service to be compatible with a given electronic services platform. Instead, the Casati article only describes a tool by which a composite service can be defined. At least for this reason, claim 23 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

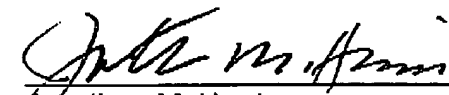
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees

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are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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